

# Provider Insider

Alabama Medicaid Bulletin

January 2021

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## COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION FOR PROVIDERS

The Alabama Medicaid Agency (Medicaid) has information available for providers regarding the administration of COVID-19 vaccines approved by the FDA on the Agency website at [https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0\\_Providers/7.11\\_COVID-19\\_Vaccine\\_Providers.aspx](https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0_Providers/7.11_COVID-19_Vaccine_Providers.aspx).

Cost of the vaccines are covered by the federal government. Alabama Medicaid will allow reimbursement of a vaccine administration fee to Medicaid providers who utilize federally-allocated COVID-19 vaccines.

- Payment rates for COVID-19 vaccine administration will be \$28.39 to administer single-dose vaccines
- For a COVID-19 vaccine requiring a series of two or more doses, the initial dose(s) administration payment rate will be \$16.94, and \$28.39 for the administration of the final dose in the series.
- These rates recognize the costs involved in administering the vaccine, including the additional resources involved with required public health reporting, conducting important outreach and patient education, and spending additional time with patients to answer any questions they may have about the vaccine.



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## Pass It On!

Everyone needs to know the latest about Medicaid. Be sure to route this to:

- Office Manager
- Billing Dept.
- Medical/Clinical Professionals
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

The information contained within is subject to change. Please review your Provider Manual and all Provider Alerts for the most up-to-date information.

To receive, administer, and report COVID-19 vaccines, healthcare providers must enroll in the Alabama Department of Public Health's (ADPH) ImmPRINT COVID-19 Vaccination Program. Follow the steps in the [ImmPRINT Registration Roadmap](#) to enroll.

The following agencies have additional resources related to COVID-19 vaccines:

- Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH)
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

**NOTE: Links to these sites are available on Medicaid's COVID-19 Vaccine webpage:**

[https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0\\_Providers/7.11\\_COVID-19\\_Vaccine\\_Providers.aspx](https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0_Providers/7.11_COVID-19_Vaccine_Providers.aspx).

ADPH offers COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Support at the following link:

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/immunization/covid-vaccine-administration.html>.



## 2021 MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN CONTRACTS

### ATTENTION: ALL PROVIDERS

Effective January 1, 2021, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will have contracts with eight companies that offer Medicare Advantage coverage in Alabama: Aetna Better Health, Inc., Arcadian Health Plan, Inc. (Humana), HealthSpring Life & Health Insurance Company, Inc. (CIGNA), Simpra Advantage, Inc., UnitedHealthcare of the Midlands, Inc., UnitedHealthcare of Alabama, Inc., VIVA Health, Inc., and Wellcare of Alabama, Inc.

Providers are encouraged to check Medicaid's Eligibility Verification File under the Managed Care Section to determine if capitation payments have been made for recipients during a particular month. In the event that a capitation payment has not been made, providers should refer to Chapter 5 of the Provider Manual, Sections 5.6.1- 5.6.2, for claims filing instructions.

Questions may be directed to Shari Rudd at (334) 353-3403 or [shari.rudd@medicaid.alabama.gov](mailto:shari.rudd@medicaid.alabama.gov).

## MEDICAL DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE

The Alabama Medicaid Agency, Montgomery Central Office, is seeking to fill a position of a Public Health Physician Director (40434). This is a **Medical Director position** and is responsible for providing clinical leadership and guidance to the Alabama Medicaid Agency in coordination with the Commissioner's Office. This highly advanced professional, administrative, and medical position involves providing guidance in medical related services within the Alabama Medicaid Agency. Work involves providing assistance to agency officials in making determinations of level and quality of medical care provided to recipients by healthcare providers. Duties also include serving as medical consultant in the development and modification of healthcare policies and procedures, and the implementation of healthcare delivery systems statewide. Work is performed with a high degree of independent and professional judgment. This is a great opportunity for a physician who wants to provide clinical guidance in an office setting.

### Competitive Benefits and Salary:

- Desirable work schedule
- 40-hour work week (typically Monday through Friday, 8:00 am. to 5:00 p.m.)
- Health Insurance Coverage (Medical, Dental and Vision)
- Paid time off (including state holidays, annual and sick time)

If you are interested in this position, please call the Alabama Medicaid Agency at (334) 242-5600 for more information.



## MANAGED CARE

### Importance of Updating Provider Enrollment Files

It is important that all Alabama Coordinated Health Network (ACHN) providers (group and individual) maintain their provider enrollment files with the Fiscal Agent. This includes submitting accurate information regarding the provider specialties to the Fiscal Agent. Incorrect information about the provider specialties might cause delays in ACHN care coordination services for Medicaid recipients.

## Attribution Report Timeline

The following table lists the timeframe in which attribution reports will be available via the secure web portal:

Attribution Period	Attribution Run Month	Attribution Reports Available
January 1, 2021 - March 31,2021	November 2020	First week of December 2020
April 1, 2021 - June 30,2021	February 2021	First week of March 2021
July 1, 2021 - September 30,2021	May 2021	First week of June 2021
October 1, 2021 - December 31,2021	August 2021	First week of September 2021

For additional information about attribution reports, you may access Chapter 40 of the Provider Billing Manual at the following link: [https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0\\_Providers/7.6\\_Manuals.aspx](https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/7.0_Providers/7.6_Manuals.aspx).

## Alabama Coordinated Health Network Bonus Payments

All Primary Care Physician (PCP) groups, including FQHCs and RHCs, who actively participate with the ACHN entities qualify to receive bonus payments. The next quarterly bonus payments will be issued on the second checkwrite of January 2021.

A bonus pool has been established in the amount of \$15 million annually to fund three (3) bonus payments for eligible participating PCP groups. The bonus payment pool is allotted as follows:

- 50% for Quality
- 45% for Cost Effectiveness
- 5% for PCMH Recognition





## Changes to the ACHN Bonus Payment Distribution

Beginning with the January 22, 2021 checkwrite, the Alabama Medicaid Agency will set aside funds from the annual ACHN bonus payment pool. The reserved funds will assist with the unforeseen situations that would cause the Agency to recoup and redistribute the bonus pool. The Agency will reserve a total of \$400,000 from the annual \$15 million bonus pool. This is equivalent to a reserve of \$100,000 per quarter. If a PCP group(s) is inaccurately paid due to miscalculation(s) or inadvertently omitted from the bonus payment distribution, the Agency will use the reserve funds to pay the PCP group(s). In addition, if funds are recouped from a PCP group, the recouped amount will be added to the reserve funds. During the last quarter of the fiscal year, the Agency will distribute any remaining reserve funds to actively participating ACHN PCP groups.

**NOTE: Because the reserve funds will go into effect during the second quarter, the Agency will reserve a total \$300,000 for FY 2021. For subsequent years, the Agency will reserve the standard \$400,000 annually.**

For more information about the reserve funds, refer to the **Changes to the Alabama Coordinated Health Network (ACHN) Bonus Payment Distribution** ALERT on the Medicaid website. Medicaid ALERTs: <https://medicaid.alabama.gov/alerts.aspx>.

## Alabama Coordinated Health Network Provider Profiler Reports

Evaluation of quality and cost effectiveness will be necessary for a PCP group to manage their actual performance. It is important that the provider review the quarterly Provider Profiler to visualize how the provider is performing throughout the year. The Provider Profiler provides the PCP with a mechanism to monitor areas that may need improvement in order to achieve quality and cost effectiveness for a higher bonus payment. The Provider Profiler will be released quarterly. More information about the Provider Profiler can be found by visiting [https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/5.0\\_Managed\\_Care/5.1\\_ACHN/5.1.5\\_ACHN\\_Quality\\_Measures.aspx](https://medicaid.alabama.gov/content/5.0_Managed_Care/5.1_ACHN/5.1.5_ACHN_Quality_Measures.aspx).

The next Provider Profiler will be released towards the end of January 2021.



## ACHN DHCP Referral Requirement

Please be advised that Medicaid recipients that are not assigned to an ACHN on the date of service will not require a DHCP referral from the ACHN for reimbursement.



## GAINWELL TECHNOLOGIES PROVIDER REPRESENTATIVES

Provider Representatives may be reached by dialing 1-855-523-9170 and entering the appropriate seven-digit extension.



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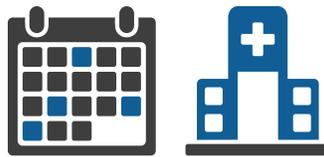
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The release of funds is normally the second Monday after the checkwrite (remittance advice) date.  
Please verify direct deposit status with your bank. As always, the release of direct deposit and checks depends on the availability of funds.

## CHECK WRITE SCHEDULE REMINDER:

- October 2, 2020
  - October 16, 2020
  - November 6, 2020
  - November 13, 2020
  - December 4, 2020
  - December 11, 2020
  - January 1, 2021
  - January 22, 2021
  - February 5, 2021
  - February 19, 2021
  - March 5, 2021
  - March 19, 2021
  - April 2, 2021
  - April 16, 2021
  - May 7, 2021
  - May 21, 2021
  - June 4, 2021
  - June 18, 2021
  - July 9, 2021
  - July 23, 2021
  - August 6, 2021
  - August 20, 2021
  - September 3, 2021
  - September 10, 2021
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